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Thematic discussion: strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, including through equitable macroeconomic policies

Statement submitted by Foundation for Research on Technology Migration and Integration, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2007/100 and Corr.1.

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Statement

In support of the 2007 theme of the HLS for ECOSOC, "Strengthening efforts at all levels to promote pro-poor sustained economic growth, including through equitable macroeconomic policies", the Foundation for Research on Technology Migration and Integration would like to emphasize once again the importance and the role of governance- especially good governance and the strength of human capital in supporting pro-poor sustained economic growth.

Since the adoption of the recommendation of " One Dollar for Development" at a meeting of non-G8 member states at FAO in Rome in 2004, the foundation has led many advocacy efforts, including a presentation on 22 June 2006 of Formit Foundation, through its subsidiary Formit Servizi, before an Informal Interactive Hearing of the General Assembly. The Hearings, a review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action, were intended to serve as a forum for NGOs, civil society, and the private sector to express their respective views on sustainable development and on best practices in the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

The Formit Foundation drew attention to the substantial prospective value ICTs can have in improving governance and reducing poverty in the LDCs. Specifically the Foundation highlighted the initiative One Dollar for Development, which seeks donations from developed countries of e-government technologies already in use, and whose implementation would obviate the need for LDCs to invest the significant funds that would be required to develop and deploy their own e-government applications.

The Formit Foundation exhorted the LDCs to create an enabling environment for such applications, and the United Nations to play an active role in facilitating the technology transfer.

Below are two paragraphs from the Outcome Document A/61/162 of the Informal Interactive General Assembly Hearings, which summarize The Formit Foundation's recommendations and speak to their importance.

Paragraph 34: The importance of information and communication technology (ICT) to the achievement of the goals and targets of the Brussels Programme was underlined by various participants. It was stressed that ICT can be used to promote democratic governance and poverty reduction.

Paragraph 35: To benefit fully from ICT, the least developed countries need software applications, particularly in the area of e-governance. Donors, both public and private, were called upon to assist the least developed countries in making this software available, as financial resources remain inadequate. Recommendations were made for:

(a) donor countries to offer free e-governance software investments in the least developed countries and encourage software-reuse at the national level, as well as open source technologies and multi-language software interfaces in their ICT development;

(b) the least developed countries to create an enabling environment to facilitate transfer of knowledge and ensure compatibility and sustainability with regard to infrastructure, local industries and human capital; and

(c) the United Nations to play a central role in the creation of an ICT framework.